

CENTER SCENE



The Bureau of Land Management Service Center Newsletter

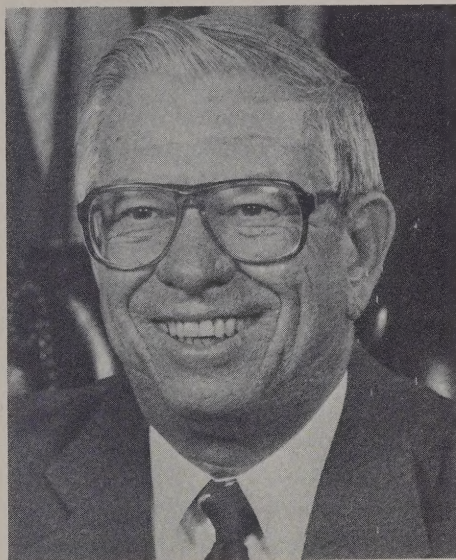
March 1991

LUJAN BRIEFS BUREAUS

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan held an employee briefing in the Building 56 auditorium on February 12, 1991. After introductions by Joe Hall, Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation, Secretary Lujan took the stage to discuss the state of the Department. He opened by saying, "I'm very proud of the Department's workforce in Denver. They are very dedicated, professional, competent, and able people." The Department has approximately 7,000 employees in the area.

According to Secretary Lujan, the Department's mission can be wrapped up in one word — "stewardship." Lujan said, "We have two mandates. This is difficult because we have to develop as well as preserve — and these sometimes conflict. Balance is important."

There are currently four initiatives receiving heightened attention within the Department. Outdoor recreation is the first initiative — responding to the need to make more of the land under our jurisdiction available for recreation. The



second initiative is hazardous waste disposal — being responsive to enhanced awareness of these activities. The Civil War Battlefield Protection Program is the third initiative — emphasizing partnerships in protection of battlefields in the East that are threatened by encroaching population. The fourth initiative is

American Indians — helping to increase their self-education and determination.

In addition, the Department will continue last year's emphasis on the President's mandates for the entire Federal Government. These mandates are education, drug eradication, women and minorities, and volunteerism.

Secretary Lujan also discussed some issues of concern in Colorado that he would be addressing with the Colorado legislature. These issues included: the Mining Law of 1872 changes; oil shale patents; Wilderness Area designations; the Animas La Plata Irrigation Project; the national energy strategy; the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park proposal; the California drought; and lotteries for oil leases.

In closing, the Secretary said, "There are many changes in this world — trends, technology, etc., but one thing remains the same. Take care of the land, water, and air, which is our mission, and they'll take care of you. If you don't, you'll suffer the consequences."

SC TEAMS UP ON HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Do you know what the highest point in elevation in Florida is? You'll probably never guess — it's a landfill.

There are hundreds of hazardous waste sites on public lands in the United States. What is hazardous waste? Is it large companies unloading barrels of unwanted waste into landfills, or is it John Q. Public changing his oil and dumping the remains in a lot somewhere? In reality, it is both, and a lot more.

Hazardous waste has become a major issue of concern for both the public and private sectors. As a result of this, BLM is starting to make a stronger commitment towards more effectively managing hazardous wastes and hazardous materials. At the Service Center, the Section of Hazardous Materials Management has been established in the Division of Resource Services under John Baker. The Section will combine the large

available pool of knowledge in natural resources with the specialized technical expertise in hazardous waste and hazardous materials. Several new positions will be added to the staff providing scarce skills and capabilities to field offices and the Bureau's Hazardous Materials Management Program. The Section will serve as a sort of clearinghouse for technical studies on hazardous materials. It will also provide a center for field personnel to learn new techniques in dealing with hazardous waste and hazardous materials.

Much of the Hazardous Materials Management Program is based on the analysis of natural resource issues, especially ground water, soil, and surface water. One concern of the new Section will be ground water contamination. Ground water contamination occurs when contaminants migrate to the ground water

and are transported underground. In coordination with Remote Sensing and GIS, the Section of Hazardous Materials Management will be starting a land classification scheme whereby lands can be mapped for their vulnerability to ground water contamination.

Specialists in the Section are developing a plan with the Washington Office which will allow BLM to use a logical ranking system for prioritizing hazardous sites. Once ranking has occurred, a corrective action can be recommended. Basically, what it amounts to is what type of cleanup at what cost.

There will be many Hazardous Materials Management challenges the Bureau must face in the future. Through teamwork and the establishment of new partnerships, a total quality management effort is assured.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

Thanks to all who responded to our readership survey — the results may surprise you! Following is a summary based on the answers given by the majority of respondents:

- The newsletter should continue to come out monthly, and should remain the same number of pages with an occasional larger issue. The size of the newsletter page is just right.
- All the stories in each issue are read by most people, the length of the stories is just right, and the story tone is well balanced. The newsletter contains a good balance of new and repetitive information. Stories that give complete explanations of a topic are best.
- The quality and quantity of pictures in each issue is good.
- A copy of the newsletter is received 75-100 percent of the time, and is kept for a day.
- The type of paper used, color of paper used, color of ink used, masthead design, name of newsletter, size of type, and variety of type sizes are all pleasing.
- The writing style and ease of reading of the newsletter are good. The appearance of the newsletter is excellent.
- The overall opinion of Center Scene is good.

The types of stories listed below are ranked from most interesting to least interesting according to the responses received:

Topics	Percent of respondents that found topic interesting *
Special events	82
People stories - work related	82
Organization changes	75
SC programs/functions/staffs	75
Job-related information	75
New employees	72
Retirements	66
People stories - outside activities	66
Manager profiles	65
BLM/SC policies and practices	64
Social activities	61
Awards	61
Promotions	59
Automation topics	58
Personal news (births, deaths, etc.)	55
EEO events	55

* Includes respondents who ranked topics as very interesting, or of some interest.

For the most part, respondents seemed pleased with the newsletter the way it is. There were quite a few comments about using recycled paper, and we are presently checking into that possibility. Any other changes will be fairly minor, but we will try to include more of the stories that ranked most interesting.

Anyone who has story ideas, would like to write stories, or would like to sit in on Center Scene planning sessions, please contact Linda Hill anytime at 236-4238. Thanks again for your participation — the input was very helpful, and though we won't be able to please everyone, we hope to be able to put together a newsletter that is useful to most of you.

PERSONNEL NEWS

New Employees:

Karla Haujock, Clerk, SC-340
Nicole Smith, Clerk, SC-340
Vincent Ortega, Voucher Examiner, SC-610
Rita Sheffer, Secretary, SC-610
Anne Westlake, Mail Clerk, SC-657

Separations:

Allen Cooperrider, Wildlife Mgmt. Biologist, SC-320
Sherri Perry, Voucher Examiner, SC-610
Karen Cochran, Contract Spec., SC-650
Jacinda Rahming, Clerk Typist, SC-650

WILD OVER ELK



The graphics staff in Technology Transfer designed and produced an exhibit for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's recent national conference. The conference was held at the Denver Convention Center February 14-17, 1991.

The exhibit was planned in cooperation with the wildlife staff at BLM's Colorado State Office, who was responsible for representing the entire Bureau at the conference. It featured an elk standing partially within the BLM emblem, illustrating the cooperative relationship between the Foundation and BLM.

BLM Director Cy Jamison, pictured above with the exhibit, was present for the opening of the conference. Members of the SC Resource Services Staff attended and participated in the conference. Attendance was estimated at over 30,000 people.

Avoiding Thefts

Tips from the Federal Protective Service:

- Never leave money unsecured in your office.
- Do not bring valuable personal items to the office.
- Do not leave leather jackets, coats, etc., with money, wallets, or other valuables hanging, especially near a hallway.
- Keep purses and other valuable items in a secure, lockable area.
- Secure equipment by tethering it, tying it down, or keeping it in a lockable area.
- Be wary of anyone unfamiliar who just seems to be looking around; ask if you can help them.
- Lock doors whenever possible — both car doors and office doors.